

AIR FORCE MATERIEL COMMAND

# LEADING EDGE

January 2002

# We are family...





Headquarters  
Air Force Materiel Command  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,  
Ohio

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## Cover Stories



Cover design by Ms. Crystal Reed, AFMC/PAI.

## 4 - 13 AFMC: We are family

**T**he Air Force Materiel Command believes in taking care of its people. Turn the page and see what they offer in the areas of assistance, opportunities and services to the work force and their families.

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Students from the Air and Space Vehicle Test Course at the Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards AFB, Calif., recently toured the mission control center at Johnson Space Center in Houston. Turn to page 20 and read all about it.



**2nd Lt. Jason Pryor, 412th Flight Test Squadron, checks aircraft positions on one of the air traffic control datalink terminals, part of the new ACTFAST capability at Edwards AFB, Calif. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chris Ball, AFFTC)**

## Edwards home to new air traffic control capability

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The Air Force Flight Test Center recently welcomed a new test capability designed to ensure military aircraft are linked to the world's air traffic control system.

The Air Traffic Control Communications Test Facility and Avionics System Test, known as the ACTFAST, evaluates military aircraft use of Global Air Traffic Management data links. Such links are managed by the International Civil Aviation Organization and allow military and civilian aircraft to take the most direct routes to their respective destinations.

For the military, taking the most efficient route means less time to deploy and quicker turnaround times. This creates a need for the Defense Department to ensure its aircraft's avionics suites are processing the same air traffic control data as the FAA and civilian aircraft. If both the military and civilian aircraft have the same data, the FAA can ensure that both entities get the most efficient route.

ACTFAST enables Edwards to test and track any aircraft in the world that has the global air traffic management avionics suite, according to Mr. Jim Tedeschi, ACTFAST program manager.

The new capability is staffed by flight test engineers and range controllers. In addition to monitoring military aircraft on the ground and in-flight, ACTFAST can evaluate Defense Department aircraft modification centers and system integration laboratories.

— Information provided by AFFTC Public Affairs

## Eglin fuel additive hits "high" on gas supply

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — Fuels experts here recently added additive to base aircraft fueling systems, allowing the fuel to run cleaner and saving on the number of aircraft maintenance actions in the process.

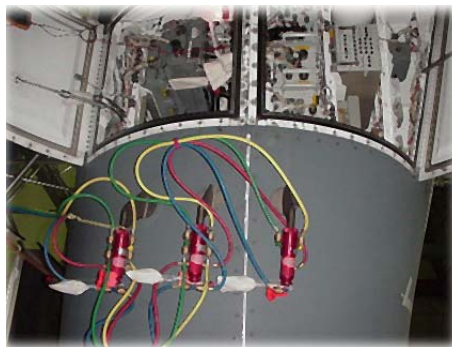
Planes belonging to the 33rd Fighter Wing are now being fueled with JP+100. The result is the jets will get the additive at every fill-up, except during in-flight

refueling. Eglin is the first U.S. base and the second in the Air Force to have this type of refueling system, according to 1st Lt. Joseph Elkins, flight commander.

The additive not only allows the fuel to run cleaner, but is designed to help with the fuel's stability.

This is critical for fighter aircraft that depend on fuel for cooling major components. The fuel has other advantages as well.

— Information provided by AAC Public Affairs



**The B1-B Pilot Static Interface System has made simulated testing faster and easier at Tinker AFB, Okla. (Courtesy photo)**

## Partnership aids reliable testing of B-1 bomber

TINKER AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. — Testing B-1 bomber capabilities is quicker and easier thanks to a partnership between avionics technicians here and University of Oklahoma professors.

University of Oklahoma professors re-engineered the B-1B Pilot Static

Interface System to provide a more effective, efficient and reliable method of interfacing the aircraft to the simulation test set. The aircraft's speed, altitude and angle of attack are discerned from this system.

The old system was messy, prone to leaks, wear and tear and could cause damage to expensive transducers, according to Mr. Robert Winters, item management home office logistics and new interface system project manager.

The new system was developed to standardize the method of interfacing the system to aircraft throughout the Air Force.

It also helps overcome drawbacks of systems maintainers at Tinker and McConnell AFB, Kan., currently use.

A University of Oklahoma School of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering team and Tinker employees designed the new interface system.

— Information provided by OC-ALC Public Affairs

## Reservists activated to aid homeland defense

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — Seventy-six members from the 445th Security Forces Squadron here have been called to active duty. Some deployed in support of homeland defense, while others remain to augment the 88th Air Base Wing Security Forces.

Following Sept. 11, the combined flying hours of the 89th and 356th Airlift Squadrons have averaged more than 700 hours per month, increased from 450 per month. The increases in missions, although not in direct support of Enduring Freedom, are because of Enduring Freedom as airlifters that usually flew these missions are now per-



**445th Airlift Wing C141s sit on the ramp at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, waiting to fly missions in support of homeland defense. (Courtesy photo)**

forming duties elsewhere in the world.

In addition, they had the honor of transporting remains of three casualties from South Asia to Ramstein AB, Germany following recent friendly fire incident in Afghanistan.

— Information provided by 445th SFS Public Affairs



# Quality of life a command priority

— **Gen. Lester Lyles**  
Commander  
Air Force Materiel Command

The Air Force has always done a great job in taking care of its people. Air Force Materiel Command is no exception. There are very few corporations or businesses that offer as much in the areas of assistance, opportunities or services to the members of its workforce and their families.

This edition of the *Leading Edge* is a compilation of those Quality of Life, or QoL, services and benefits everyone in AFMC should be aware of. This includes services such as recreational opportunities, medical benefits, chaplain programs, educational classes, military housing, childcare, workplace QoL improvements and fitness facilities. And these are just a few; many more are described in this edition of *Leading Edge*. AFMC installations have the programs that enhance the quality of both your work and leisure time.

## Extending YOFAM improves quality

Our continuing effort to improve your QoL has been particularly highlighted by the designation of the year 2001 as the Year of the Family. At first, the YOFAM program was to last for a year, but I decided early on to extend it another year. YOFAM 2002 will be even more successful as you, our customer, become aware of and take advantage of the very services that can help you and your loved ones enjoy a healthier and more robust life.

Last year, I dedicated \$2.5 million to fund various projects and programs at the different AFMC installations. Military members, civilians and their families asked for new exercise equipment, sports field enhancements, new computers at the base library, development of a skateboard park, upgrades of picnic areas, youth center improvements, parenting seminars and dormitory renovations.

An additional \$1.1 million was dedicated at the end of the fiscal year for projects and programs such as child development center upgrades, library books, base youth curriculum, pavilion enhancements, tennis court lighting and installation of ballpark facilities — just to name a few. For 2002, I set aside another \$2.5 million for projects and programs which are currently being implemented.



*Gen. Lester Lyles, AFMC commander, briefs his staff at a recent commanders call, where he reemphasized the importance of on-going QoL initiatives. (Photo by Ms. Estella Holmes, AFMC/PAI)*

## HQ guidance and easy access

But money isn't everything. There are many ways to emphasize the importance of your QoL. We have created an office at headquarters that helps us guide our command's current and long term QoL initiatives. Also, team members at nine of our installations have created websites to help keep you informed. Each website provides base services, events and community information along with other beneficial assistance. Importantly, these websites also serve as an avenue to receive suggestions for QoL improvements. This is yet another way that I know your concerns and ideas are being addressed.

## A guide to QoL

Additionally, at each installation everyone should have access to the new QoL resource and benefit guide. These guides enable you to familiarize yourself with the services and resources offered at your base. Furthermore, for the first time, a portion of the command strategic plan is devoted to QoL improvements and ensures we are meeting our goal of creating an environment where individuals and families feel valued and respected. We're well on our way of meeting this goal through the development of new programs and labor-management partnerships — all will be described in this edition of the *Leading Edge*.

As a member of the AFMC family, I urge you to take advantage of the numerous QoL activities and programs available to you.

# YOFAM enters second year flying high on successes

**A**ir Force Materiel Command's Year of the Family initiative heads into its second year, as experts continue focusing on enhancing people's quality of life.

When Gen. Lester Lyles, AFMC commander, designated 2001 AFMC's Year of the Family, he envisioned increasing people's awareness of existing quality of life services and programs and developing new projects and programs to further enhance quality of life.

## AFMC family shares common goal

Early on, he defined the AFMC family as a group of people working toward a common goal, with a mutual regard and concern for one another. This definition includes the total work force — military and Defense Department civilians, whether married or single, their family members and retirees.

Gen. Lyles and the other command leadership showed their dedication to improving work force quality of life by establishing a headquarters YOFAM office and funding more than 130 new projects and programs centers submitted for approval. In less than a year, \$6.1 million has been distributed to installations for YOFAM projects and programs.

## A communities community park

One YOFAM-funded project at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., was for a community park. And according to Mr. James Helms of the Eglin Family Support Center, the community aspect rings literally true as Eglin families will build it.

"The park was developed from children's artwork, and the children also competed in naming it," Mr. Helms said. "This idea is a community effort, bringing families together for a common cause." The park will also be used for various functions to include squadron picnics and commander's calls and Mr. Helms said it's an excellent example of the type of projects YOFAM funding supports.

## Meeting the needs of the family

At Hill AFB, Utah, YOFAM has helped people with serious medical problems, according to Ms. Liesel Woodard of the base family support center. She cited base leaders using YOFAM dollars to purchase a cholesterol machine for the Hill Health and Wellness Center as an example.



*Emory Eledui, a Hanscom AFB, Mass. resident, gets some air as he goes over a ramp at the new roller blade park which was recently completed as one of many quality of life initiatives in AFMC. (Photo by Master Sgt. Daryl Mayer, ESC/PA)*

"During a health fair last April, we used that machine to test hundreds of base employees — military, retirees and civilians," Ms. Woodard said. "Several civilian workers had test results that indicated high cholesterol counts and our nurses suggested they contact their medical provider.

"As it turned out, a couple of the individuals had other life-threatening medical conditions they weren't aware of before our HAWC health fair. This free health screening is proving to be very beneficial to individuals in our community."

A new initiative from the relocation office at Tinker AFB,

— YOFAM continued on page 6

## YOFAM workers improve your base — contact them

AMARC	Ms. Carolyn Remencus
Arnold AFB	Tech. Sgt Tammy Martinovic
Brooks AFB	Mr. Gil Harrison, Ms. Louanne Beauchamp
Edwards AFB	Ms. Carla Kabaniec, Ms. Mary Frayer
Eglin AFB	Mr. James Helms
Hanscom AFB	Lt. Col. Don Seta, Major Lindsay Weber
Hill AFB	Master Sgt. Timothy Green, Ms. Leisel Woodard

Kirtland AFB	Ms. Teresa Reinhard
Robins AFB	Ms. Christine Parker
AFRL Information Directorate	Lt. Col. Sara Ayala
Standard Systems Group	Lt. Col. Carol Zienert
Tinker AFB	Lt. Col. Hector Rivera
Wright Patterson AFB	Ms. Wanda Lander
HQ AFMC	Lt. Col. David Arreola



The "Around Robins" production team prepares to shoot the studio sequence for each week's show. From the left, production coordinator Mr. Roland Leach, and in front of the camera, Mr. Geoff Janes. (Photo by Ms. Sue Sapp.



## — YOFAM continued from page 5

Okl., is family support center workers giving welcome kits to first-term airmen. The kits include a local-area map, laundry soap, grooming items, a can opener, towels, silverware, a sewing kit, a YOFAM T-shirt, helpful booklets such as "Starting Your Military Career" and so on.

"These kits help our young airmen get settled quickly, and therefore facilitate mission readiness," said Ms. Ruthie McMeans, Tinker relocation manager. "They are also a simple and small way of saying thank you. We try to make our new airmen feel welcome and let them know we care."

These are just a few examples of YOFAM's impact within AFMC, according to Lt. Col. David Arreola, AFMC's YOFAM office director. But not all YOFAM activity is happening at the installation level.

### Family focused leadership

He said YOFAM is an integral part of leadership's focus on people at the AFMC headquarters level.

"YOFAM and quality of life issues constantly remind everyone of the value we place on our human resources, both in the short-term and the long-term," Col. Arreola said. "YOFAM had a major impact on the AFMC Strategic Plan, and for the first time, the plan includes issues like work force health, organizational assistance, labor and management relations along with mental health counseling for civilians. In general, the headquarters YOFAM office keeps the focus on what the command is doing and can do in the future to improve the quality of life for our AFMC family."

Col. Arreola said YOFAM has been a topic of newspaper articles, commander's calls, outdoor events, ceremonies and town hall meetings throughout 2001 and will continue to be the driving force for quality-of-life improvements in 2002. Military members, civilians, spouses, family members and retirees at each installation are becoming more aware of quality-of-life services and benefits offered.

### Increased awareness

"YOFAM has become a vehicle to let people know what services are available at each location and has also become an avenue for people to make suggestions for quality-of-life improvements," Col. Arreola said. "Within the command are some very creative people working on ideas that will further assist our civilian and military members and their families."

Col. Arreola recalled one center investigated using their auditorium as a base theater, while another turned their chapel into a childcare facility. People at Eglin initiated a "Chicken Soup House" for children with minor illnesses, and officials at Hanscom AFB, Mass., offered parents one free week of childcare.

And with the help of funding, Col. Arreola said everything from new family support center classes like "Dads 101" and "The Making of a Stable Family," to dormitory renovations and temporary living facility improvements have been implemented.

### Notable successes

"The YOFAM program is accomplishing what the command wanted it to do," Col. Arreola said. "General Lyles' idea about how to highlight our existing people programs and how to look into new ones has proven its effectiveness. His goal

## Initiatives at AFMC bases

- YOFAM websites to advertise programs and receive ideas for QoL improvements
- Computer classes for family members
- Distributing calendars for YOFAM events
- Comprehensive quality of life resources and benefits guides at each installation
- Spouses Guide to the Air Force
- Squadron Commanders' Spouses course
- Spouse Orientation Course
- Chaplain-sponsored marriage enrichment weekends
- Teen forums to identify concerns
- QoL focus groups with air men, officers, civilians and family members
- Command wide suicide prevention initiatives

has always been simple: 'to make sure members of the AFMC family can say YOFAM made a positive impact on their lives and the lives of their loved ones.'"

This article has provided information on what YOFAM has done for some of the AFMC family. Col. Arreola and the rest of the AFMC YOFAM staff invite everyone to share their thoughts and ideas by calling DSN 787-0252 or call your base YOFAM point of contact.

"Someone from your YOFAM program office is always available to listen to your feedback on quality of life suggestions and concerns," he said.

— Capt. Jennifer Goldthwaite, AFMC YOFAM/QoL

# "City services" supports AFMC bases; impacts quality of life



— Brig. Gen. David Cannan  
Chief Operating Officer  
Installations and Support

As members of one of the eight Air Force Materiel Command mission areas, it is our job to provide the "city services" that directly support the missions of our bases.

Equally important, we run those activities that most directly impact people and their quality of life.

Our vision calls us the foundation for AFMC because we must do our jobs well across the board in order for all the other mission areas to succeed in their own missions.

## Like a good neighbor...

We're often the "silent partner" in this deal...reliable and consistent, always there when needed by our customers.

This is the way most of us think about police and fire, water and power, libraries and gyms, personnel services, housing and dormitories, childcare, intramural sports and others like custodial and food services.

That's the way we like to be viewed: "You can count on us. We'll always be there for you."

As the Installations and Support chief operating officer, it is my job to ensure that there are enough resources, both

money and manpower, to permit you to deliver your products and services to your customers — to always be there for them.

## The good and the bad

However, my report to you today is the proverbial "good news, bad news" story. The good news is that we exceeded the expectations we set out for ourselves in the fiscal 2001 operating plan. That is, you did a great job with what you were given.

The bad news has two parts. First, the fiscal 2001 plan was based upon less money than you really needed to do your jobs the right way — but you already know that. Second, fiscal 2002 is going to be significantly worse.

## A way of life

We're all aware of the tight budgets we've had over the past few years. They've become a way of life for today's military.

Air Force leadership has been faced with a critical balancing act of trying to ensure that both our people's needs are being met and the missions are getting done.

From my perspective, despite the budget crunch, AFMC has done fairly well when compared to other major commands in the basic services we can provide. We haven't been resourced where we need to be, but we've done okay.

Of course, the major exception for all commands is in buildings and infrastructure. We've taken what could be called a "strategic pause" in facilities investments to keep our readiness numbers as high as possible.

If you have old buildings with unreliable air conditioning or a leaky roof on your base, you know what I mean.

## It's not easy

While Air Force leadership is acutely aware of the strain that the underfunding of support services and property management puts on every member of our great Air Force — and their families — it's going to get worse before it gets better. Here's why.

Installations and Support in AFMC requires an annual budget of about \$2 bil-

lion to provide its products and services at the desired quality and performance levels.

For fiscal 2001, we operated with about \$1.63 billion, far less than we needed.

Beginning in fiscal 2002, many of us had expected large increases in the Defense Department budget allowing us to reach or come a lot closer to our standard in most of our products and services.

Unfortunately, funding levels as currently projected fall well below those expected. The installations and support operating budget planned for fiscal 2002 is \$1.57 billion.

Taking into account the adjustments anticipated with the Kelly AFB, McClellan AFB, and Los Angeles AFB losses, this actually represents a reduction to the budget for what we have had in fiscal 2001 at our remaining 10 bases.

## What it means

So what does this mean for you and your customers?

Although our bases have endured shortfalls in day-to-day maintenance and base support, our facilities still look pretty good, and most levels of service have remained adequate.

However, in fiscal 2002 the backlog of unfunded civil engineer work orders and equipment requests will grow and present our customers with a work environment that continues to deteriorate more rapidly than we can sustain it.

Additionally, they may experience delays or lower quality of service in areas that are heavily dependent upon new equipment or consumable supplies.

For example, dorm furniture, fitness center equipment, computers, radios, and most other tools and equipment will grow older, with no replacements available, forcing you to "make do" with what you have.

Also, vehicles may be parked due to lack of maintenance dollars and operating hours for some base support services and activities may be shortened in order to reduce costs.

While you deal with these challenges, I

— Open letter continued on page 9



# AFMC Civil Engineers committed to improving our quality of life

**A**ir Force Materiel Command Civil Engineers ensure the environment where more than 70,000 military and civilian employees work, live and play, meets standard of living expectations on a continuing basis.

As war fighters, civil engineers meet worldwide taskings with combat-ready support forces, building and maintaining airbases to support national security interests. Closer to home, they provide AFMC installations with quality facilities, infrastructure, support services, and assist commanders in protecting the environment. This quality of life foundation helps maintain high morale while meeting demands of the Air Force mission.

## Improving living conditions

During the past decade, the Air Force has been leading the Defense Department in dormitory improvements. Civil engineers are working to upgrade dorms throughout AFMC to meet these new standards. This includes efforts at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, to construct a new dormitory complex, and at Edwards AFB, Calif., where their recently completed dormitory provides a quality home for 148 junior enlisted members. Similarly, Robins AFB, Ga., is constructing a new dining facility that will improve both operator and customer morale.

Civil engineers also work to renovate existing facilities. At Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, exterior renovations to four three-story dormitories enhance the exterior aesthetics and complement recently completed interior upgrades.

Improvements in military family housing also have been steadily advancing quality of life. Edwards replaced “vintage” 1940s and 50s housing, erecting 98 new housing units over the past three years, and are working to complete an additional 156. This will free up overcrowded conditions and provide housing similar to that found in nearby civilian communities.

Additionally, Air Force Civil Engineers championed the recently approved housing size standards, resulting in a potential living area increase of 15 to 85 percent. An example of this is the junior non-commissioned officer living in a three-bedroom home with less than 1370 square feet, who can now look forward to an increase of about 300 square feet of living space. These improvements offer possibilities of two-car garages, porches, balconies, patios, decks and exterior storage sheds — everything one would expect to find outside the base.

“When we improve our facilities we affect the attitudes of our people towards military life,” said Command Master Sgt. David Mimms. “This positive attitude transcends everything we do which results in successful missions.”

## QoL impacts morale

Traditionally, quality of life in the community significantly impacts morale. This is especially important for the “almost-remote” Edwards, where the need for diverse activities is high, as the base is located over 35 miles from public recreational facilities. Attacking the problem is Tech. Sgt. Rene Perez, a project manager with the 95 Civil Engineer Group, who is working to design a skateboard park with funding donated by the City of Palmdale.



*An artist rendition of a planned dining facility at Robins AFB, Ga., as part of an initiative to improve living and working conditions at all AFMC installations. (Courtesy photo)*

Similarly, at Arnold AFB, Tenn, recent improvements in playground equipment provide a safe recreational environment for 40 families. And at Eglin AFB, Fla., the Enlisted Club just experienced a significant overhaul that eliminated unused floor space using excessive utility costs and corrected air conditioning and fire safety deficiencies, making the facility safer and more user friendly.

Overlooking Massachusetts Bay just outside Boston is the Hanscom AFB, Mass., Fourth Cliff Recreation Area, a popular off-base site used by more than 30,000 people each year. During the summer season, existing cabins are 100 percent occupied with a lengthy waiting list. Construction of three new cottages and a four-unit condo replaces older units and expands the area to meet the high customer demand in this heritage-rich, vacation destination.

## Fostering good relationships

The 72nd Civil Engineer Squadron at Tinker AFB, Okla., raises environmental quality awareness on base and in the local school community with an annual Earth month celebration. Throughout the month, interactive Eco-Motion mobile environmental classroom presents Recycloman and Madam Trasheap to remind students about the importance of the three R's: Reduce — Recycle — Reuse. Extending environmental education into the community inevitably fosters good neighbor relations, but also equips today's youth with life-long knowledge to carry on the legacy of protecting and preserving our environment.

Leading out from Tinker AFB, Okla., housing area is the Urban Greenway, a back-to-nature oasis within a heavy industrial complex. The 72d Civil Engineers integrated a 3.3-mile paved trail through a 16-acre reserve, offering residents biking, strolling, jogging and rollerblading in Tinker's natural backyard.

AFRL Information Directorate is working toward a similar solution. In 1995, Griffis AFB, N.Y., home to the labs, was realigned and down-sized to 60 acres containing no recreational areas. To compensate, civil engineers led a self-help and volunteer team to revitalize an old warehouse site. A group of logisticians, engineers and local Oneida County master gardeners



carved out a green niche amidst a laboratory maze, complimented with sidewalks, water fountains and an outdoor pavilion.

## Improving work place conditions

Just as important as home and community is the workplace environment. At Kirtland AFB, N.M., 377th Civil Engineers opened their new advanced laser research facility. Previously located in six separate World War II vintage buildings, the laboratory now has all the space they need for state-of-the-art laser research and development, a boon for employee safety, comfort and pride.

On a grander scale, the 88th Civil Engineer Group at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, is in the midst of a multi-year project to develop a 1.1 million square foot acquisition management complex. Prior to this effort, acquisition activities were fragmented in 30 separate facilities, many of them dating back to the 1920-40s era.

Under the management of 88th CEG at Wright-Patt, the still-growing complex provides a state-of-the-art working atmosphere to consolidate Air Force and Defense Department acquisition missions. This integrated "right-sizing" approach greatly improves their operational efficiency and provides the current long-range vision that supports Aeronautical System Center's "Center of Choice" strategic plan for acquisition management.

## Bringing quality to your lives

These efforts show that workplaces don't have to be sterile and unappealing. They can be just as comfortable as we would like our homes, community and recreational areas.

In the recently signed 2002 Military Construction Appropriations Act, President George W. Bush said "the requested projects are critical to supporting military readiness and the quality of life for our soldiers... we must ensure that our men and women in uniform live in, train at and deploy from adequate facilities."

Building quality of life into your environment — where you live, work and play — is important to maintaining morale and military readiness. AFMC Civil Engineers are committed to this effort.

— Capt. Christopher Pleiman, AFMC Civil Engineering



*Initiatives at Tinker AFB, Okla., to improve quality of life include (top) civil engineers visiting local schools in an effort to promote environmental awareness and (bottom) a paved trail offering base residents a place to enjoy nature. (Courtesy Photos)*

## Open letter *continued from page 7*

urge you not to lose faith. Air Force leadership certainly recognizes your situation.

Furthermore, the Congress has recently taken up the cause publicly highlighting the poor condition of all of Defense Department installations.

## It takes more than funding

Some decisions have been deferred due to the ongoing defense review.

The Congress and leadership now have the added demands of the worldwide war on terrorism.

Once these policy decisions are made, we would hope to see some movement and funding coming to the support areas.

While funding can solve some of our problems, it is important for you to help identify better ways of doing your jobs.

We must become as efficient and effective as possible.

## Strategic plan initiatives

We have several major initiatives set out in our Installations and Support strategic plan to help us reduce our budget requirements and make your jobs easier.

You probably have ideas that can help us further. If so, share them with your air base wing or air base group commander.

We expect our "e-business" initiatives to simplify your jobs and to help reduce costs, allowing scarce resources to be applied in areas from which funding has been cut.

Perhaps a "rightsizing" initiative will provide a means for consolidating functions, allowing wasted or empty facility space to be turned over for demolition or recategorization.

## The challenge ahead

There are certainly many more, but the challenge will be for each of us to find more efficient or less costly ways to do our jobs and deliver that quality product or service we know that we can.

Please know how proud I am to be fighting for you and your center commanders in the "resource debates." Everyone recognizes the difficult jobs you have and how well you perform them despite the lack of resources.

## Our vision

That is why our vision is so appropriate and enduring: "a motivated team of professionals, the foundation underlying AFMC's missions and people." Keep up the great work!

# FSC's help families cope, strengthen communities

**Perhaps Family Support Centers are the ultimate quality of life organization – everything they do is designed to improve the quality of life for military, civilians, retirees and family members alike.**

Their mission is to provide programs and services that strengthen communities and promote self-sufficiency, mission readiness and adaptation to the Air Force way of life, and they do this in a variety of ways.

## Helping families

The family readiness program, designed to help prepare families for separations and deployments frequently a part of military life, has been particularly active since Sept. 11th.

One of the ways they do this is by offering a hearts apart support group, bringing families of deployed members to participate in a variety of activities.

In addition, a family readiness representative meets every family evacuated from overseas at the airport, offers families assistance in getting settled in a safe haven location and are advocates for resolving problems caused by the move.

## Operation brown bag

When Kirtland AFB, N.M., went to force protection condition delta, security forces

members began working extended hours. Their family support center and officer's spouses club partnered together to develop operation brown bag. Donations of money, food and drinks were accepted, and by September 14th, base vol-

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*Under "operation brown bag" at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., volunteers delivered meals to security force troops working extended hours at the installation. (Courtesy photo)*

unteers were gathering daily to pack more than 200 lunch bags every day to feed the security troops.

This initially began as a short-term effort, but it evolved into a three-and-a-half-week project that donated more than 6,000 lunch bags to the troops.

## Helping children

At Robins AFB, Ga., the family support center held a children's Saturday to address how current events are affecting young people. Parents and children turned out to talk about the tragedies and just be with other people experiencing the same thing.

Capt. Jeff McLean, chief of

the Robins Life Skills Support Center, asked children what it meant to be an American, and they were happy to oblige him.

One child answered "we can say what we want and become what we want."

spoke about how to deal with their children during this trying time.

## Ramping up support

At Hill AFB, Utah, the readiness program, spearheaded by Master Sgt. Kevin Padberg, with assistance from Ms. Angela Henderson, ramped up drastically in response to the war on terrorism.

Personnel eligible to deploy are briefed, and unit presentations are tailored specifically for both the Aerospace Expeditionary Forces and Operation Bright Star folks.

The loved ones of deployed personnel are using communication and information, and taking advantage of many of the "perks" that fall under the hearts apart umbrella, including morale calls, free child care and free oil changes sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society, video teleconferencing and family activities.

One spouse's response to the activities sponsored by the center was "I have never, in 11 years, felt the support of a base as I have with this deployment..."

These are just a few of the current events sponsored by Air Force Materiel Command Family Support Centers.

For more information about activities and programs to help families and single members, contact the base family support center.

— Ms. Niki Foor, AFMC Family Support Centers

## Sharing feelings

He also encouraged children to share their feelings about what happened Sept. 11. They said they felt sad, scared and angry with the people who caused the tragedy, and sorry for those who died.

Capt. McLean told the children they weren't the only ones feeling these things, and it is a normal way to feel when something like that happens.

After the discussion, the children were treated to snacks and crafts while the adults



# AFMC Services enriches quality of life

**A**ir Force Materiel Command Services enhances quality of life through recreational, instructional and fitness programs.

In a typical day, services would host more than 64,000 meals in AFMC installation dining facilities; more than 1,700 rounds of golf; approximately 80 hours of training and recreational flying in aero club aircraft; more than 2,600 guests in lodging; serve more than 2,500 patrons at base libraries; and accommodate more than 14,000 individuals at gyms and fitness centers.

While Air Force employees are working, approximately 5,300 of their children are being cared for in AFMC child development centers, hundreds more are in the family day care program, and more than 1,700 children attend youth center programs.

## Reinvesting in improvements

An additional benefit to the services programs is that profits are funneled back into the system at each installation in facility improvements and recreational programs including bowling, skills development, auto skills, child development, varsity sports, golfing, swimming, libraries, youth activities, restaurants, clubs, tickets and tours. Some installations even offer specialized membership clubs for tennis, flying, target shooting and horse boarding.

Improvements continue to be made to services facilities across the command.

Following are examples of some of these improvements. Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass. and Tinker AFB, Okla., are working on bowling center upgrades and Hill AFB, Utah, is replacing outdated and worn equipment.

## Anyone for golf?

Eglin AFB, Fla., Hill and Robins AFB, Ga., are repairing greens and improving irrigation on their golf courses. New maintenance and storage facilities are being constructed at Hill, Kirtland AFB, N.M., and Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. Arnold AFB, Tenn., is improving drainage on their course, and Brooks AFB, Texas and Kirtland are purchasing new golf carts.

To improve the quality of life for the health conscious, Robins completed a new multi-level, state-of-the-art fitness center in 2001, and Wright-Patt is renovating one of their centers. New clubs are planned for Eglin and Hill, while improvements are already being made at Robins and Wright-Patt.

In the outdoor recreation arena, Eglin is upgrading their marina facilities and constructing a new camp. Hanscom and Wright-Patt are providing additional camping spaces and making needed repairs. Robins is upgrading their equipment rental center.

With Hill's youth population in mind, new child development

center and youth center additions are planned. Wright-Patt's recently constructed child development center is operational while another facility just completed a major renovation.

Other projects to enhance the quality of life of patrons include Eglin's new dining facility, renovation of the Robins skills development center and construction of a car wash, and replacement of the riding stables at Edwards AFB, Calif.

## Creatively supporting the warfighter

Not having a military dining facility, Hanscom set up a "Fit To Fight" kitchen from their Patriot enlisted club. To support the military's extended hours the club provided three meals a day, plus a boxed midnight meal seven days a week.

Unique to AFMC is a program called "Preferred Plus!", which saves customers money using services facilities and equipment, offering a 10 percent discount to all Preferred Plus! members on a variety of services, products and specials at AFMC installations.

There have been other improvements as well. Information, tickets and travel operations have expanded capabilities. In addition to traditional offerings such as tickets to local attractions, they can accommodate all travel needs. Staff is available at bases or travel can be booked at [www.aftravelonline.com](http://www.aftravelonline.com)

A yearly customer appreciation summer bash is held command wide featuring a variety of activities, including picnics, sporting events, children's activities, enter-

tainment and rides. Since Sept. 11, services have increased their activities to accommodate extended work schedules and deployments.

## Extended support

Wright-Patt family day care program and Kirtland's childcare centers have extended hours to support families needing childcare due to changes in work shifts. Most AFMC childcare centers operated with extended hours for several weeks following the terrorist attacks, with several bases still following the expanded schedule.

Childcare centers at Kirtland provided resource material packets for families that included information regarding the effects of terrorism on children, ideas on how to enable children to understand and cope with terrorist incidents, and how to help children deal with separation caused by deployments.

As services organizations continue to work toward providing top quality programs and services, you are invited to explore all they offer to you as an AFMC family member.

— Ms. Kathy Kranz, AFMC/FV



*Ms. Jennifer Campbell and her daughter, Anya, enjoy a swim at the enlisted club pool at Robins AFB, Ga. (Photo by Ms. Sue Sapp, WR-ALC)*

# Simple solutions for healthy communities

— Lt. Col. Bill Wall

AFMC Office of the Command Surgeon

There's a story about two people on the bank of a river trying desperately to pull people out of the river. At the point where they are both fatigued and worried most of the people in the river will drown, a decision is made to go up river to see who is "pushing people in."

Who is "pushing people in" is a metaphor for the way life can wear us down emotionally, socially and in our ability to work. While most of us are aware that the place to turn to for help is the base or community mental health professionals, you may not know how much they are working in the areas of prevention and community building.

Representatives from the mental health flight at the medical treatment facility at every Air Force Materiel Command installation play an integral part on the integrated delivery system. (See related story on page 17).

## Moving upstream

Mental health representatives on the team are enthusiastic about the processes of building healthy communities, keeping the focus on quality of life and community prevention. In 1996, the Air Force's suicide prevention integrated product team set a goal for having all mental health providers spend at least five percent of their time participating in community prevention activities. This equates to moving upstream in the "river story."

Col. Bill Seignious, AFMC Command Surgeon, emphasizes the importance of five percent commitment to community prevention, and he encourages participation in a broad selection of areas where mental health providers can work in community-based prevention. Examples of this include: suicide prevention training, critical incident stress management, mental health provider in-service training, teaching suicide screening to primary care optimization teams and networking with the local suicide prevention teams within the civilian community.

Family advocacy and the drug demand reduction programs are actively involved with building healthy communities, quality of life initiatives and community prevention. Family advocacy programs in AFMC provide preventative, educational, support and therapeutic services in community partnership to promote healthy military family relationships.

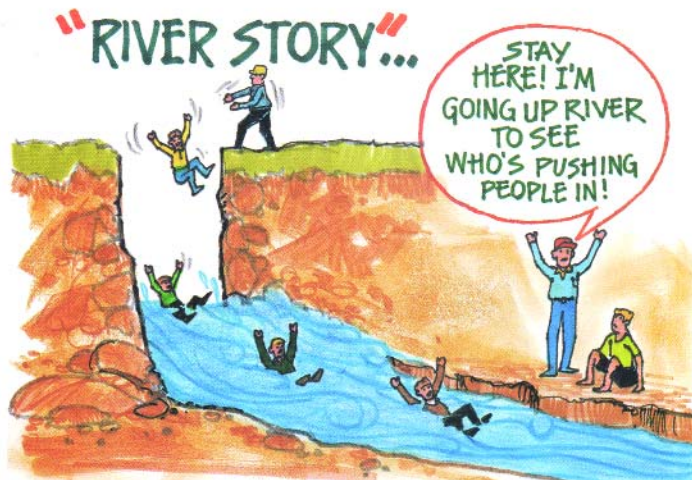
## Simple solutions

An excellent example is the family activity called "A day with Mom and Dad." In this once a year program, children get to pick the day's activities for one-on-one time with Mom, and another day with Dad. It is simple in its structure and easy to implement, but powerful in the benefit to the family.

Such simple solutions and their benefits are needed in prevention. It is not enough to wait for problems to occur, but to develop and deploy strategies to prevent family violence. This is accomplished through classes and training on topics such as anger management, workplace violence awareness, home safety for children, child abuse and domestic violence awareness.

The family advocacy program and the demand reduction program share in their respective roles of ensuring communities are safe from the detrimental influences of substance abuse.

Healthy communities take proactive steps to help its members



*Image reused with permission from Upper Valley Medical Center, Springfield, Ohio*

remain free from preventable health related conditions and illnesses. This includes the avoidance of alcohol and drug related conditions and events and other health risk behaviors.

At Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., the integrated delivery system and demand reduction program combined their strength to field a community prevention trailer. They jointly purchased the mobile trailer to promote community prevention for all programs represented by their program.

At Edwards AFB, Calif., their demand reduction program took similar prevention initiatives to demonstrate their community substance abuse prevention practices. Their program won the 11th Annual Secretary of Defense Community Drug Awareness Award — the best in the Air Force! These are but two examples of the truly outstanding work being done in the area of community prevention within AFMC.

## Dealing with stress

Our present times demand creative approaches to community prevention activities. Community building and prevention programs are an integral part of various teams and year of the family initiatives. Following the tragedies of Sept. 11, and other fear-provoking national events, our community prevention teams responded by designing and delivering programs in our communities. The staffs of our mental health flights have been fully engaged in developing and delivering programs to help children deal with stress, families cope with deployment and conducting pre-exposure preparation briefings.

It is critical to our success that mental health flight staffs continue using their knowledge and experience in working with other community agencies to tailor prevention programs to community's needs. The Air Force's pride in its ability to "take care of its own" flows from our combined efforts to build community capacity during times of peace and expend the social capital in these periods of high stress.

Our leadership is committed to tightening the mesh within our safety net of community prevention programs and activities to fully support those in need. Our base integrated delivery systems teams and their helping agency representatives will continue to perform at their very best to work toward solutions. We will ultimately discover just how to "solve the river story."



# Ministries improve life for singles, couples

Over the past few years, the Air Force Materiel Command Chaplain Service has addressed several quality of life and relationship issues for both single and married people.

Singles ministries are provided throughout AFMC. More than 100 individuals have been trained in singles ministry at the USAF Singles Leadership Training Conference since 2000.

These individuals have taken their training back to their bases starting new ministries for singles.

AFMC has supported the training of chaplains, assistants, and others for singles ministry.

Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., provides a singles luncheon, which averages over 200 singles in attendance. The singles program has expanded to include a chapel dayroom as a safe environment to hang out, play pool, and talk with a chaplain. The dayroom is also the site for a literature night, a movie night, a game night and informal Bible studies each week.

Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, has developed a program for single airmen to meet in a couple's home for food, Bible study and fellowship. A praise fellowship band has been formed to lead worship and fellowship each Saturday and the Thursday

Night Together, or TNT, continues to reach new singles.

Each base provided marriage enrichment opportunities during 2001 with the help of YOFAM monies. These marriage seminars have met an identified need for AFMC personnel.

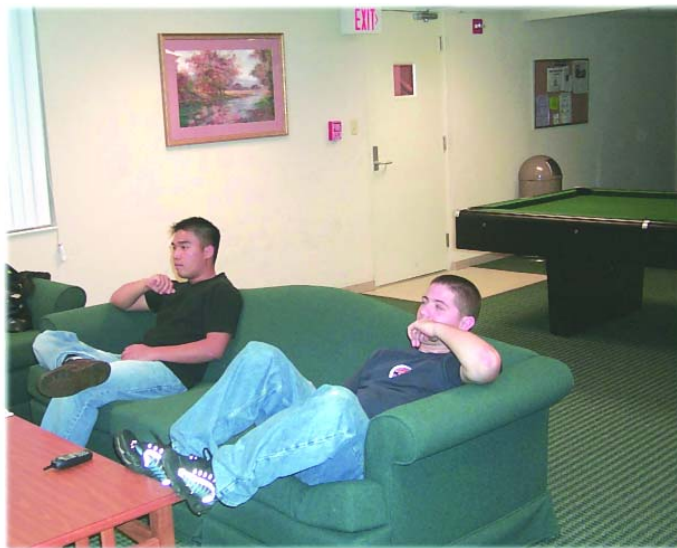
The marriage workshop, "A Lasting Promise," was held at Hill AFB, Utah providing twenty-eight couples valuable tools to enrich their marriages.

The workshop dealt with the following areas: scriptural foundations, barriers to oneness, four key danger signs, differences in men and women, handling conflict, filters, speaker-listener technique, problem solving and commitment. Each couple learned a better way to communicate through the speaker-listener technique, a unique way of communicating that can also be applied beyond marriage.

Wright-Patt provided a marriage enrichment seminar for active duty and civilian employees at the Fairborn Holiday Inn.

There were formal presentations on communication skills, conflict resolution and self-understanding through administration of a temperament personality profile, providing twenty-two couples with tools to enrich their marriages.

— Chaplain (Lt. Col) Joel Rayfield, AFMC/HC



*Airman 1st Class Ramon Jason and Airman 1st Class Sean Randolph, both of the 46th Test Wing enjoy the chapel dayroom, which is part of the singles program at Eglin AFB, Fla. (Photo by Ms. Lois Walsh AAC/PA)*

## Training the trainers in suicide intervention

As a 2002 Year of the Family initiative, the Air Force Materiel Command Chaplain Office will hold a five-day "Training the Trainers" course of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, or ASIST, in January in Dayton, Ohio. AFMC teamed with LivingWorks, a Canadian-based public service corporation, to provide the course.

Organizers are anticipating 30 attendees from nine AFMC bases. After completion of training, these attendees will be qualified to conduct multiple two-day ASIST training workshops at their local bases. Workshop participants at the bases will learn how to recognize opportunities for help, reach out and offer support,

estimate the risk of suicide, apply a model for suicide intervention and link people with community resources.

Most people considering suicide signal their distress and intent, according to LivingWorks. But proper training can help stop further deaths and injuries by providing caregivers with the necessary tools to help prevent the immediate risk of suicide.

ASIST is designed to help caregivers become comfortable and competent when dealing with persons at risk. Suicide can be prevented through actions of prepared caregivers. Just as CPR skills make physical first aid possible, training in suicide intervention develops the skills used in suicide first aid.

Those in the helping professions; medical, mental health, chaplains, family support; have worked to immerse troops with information about the warning signs of stress and the symptoms of suicide. This course will give caregivers the tools to assess and intervene in the moment of crisis with those who are thinking of a 'final solution.'

ASIST is used by major universities, medical clinics, prisons and mental health centers throughout Canada, England, Australia and the United States. Moreover, the U. S. Army and the Air Force's Air Combat Command and Air Mobility Command have successfully implemented this program.

— AFMC Chaplain Services



## Health & wellness centers — helping improve your QoL

In the past, many people felt the only way to keep their health was to “eat what you don’t want, drink what you don’t like and do what you’d rather not.” We’ve come a long way since then.

It’s important to take responsibility for your health as we live longer and healthier lives, and the Air Force Materiel Command led the Air Force with the concept of prevention and developed the health and wellness center, or HAWC.

The first HAWC was the 1986 vision of then Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, Medical Center commander, Col. Charles Roadman. His vision was to establish a center to make individuals aware of the importance of a healthy lifestyle and assist them in attaining that.

Health and wellness centers officially came into existence in 1995 when then Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Sheila Widnall, directed that all bases establish them. Then Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Ron Fogleman, endorsed the concept. The reason for this “people first” initiative was to improve quality of life, health and fitness of its members with a “one stop shop.”

Operationally, it provided an opportunity to ensure a healthy combat force, ready to deploy for any contingency, anywhere. Thanks to AFMC leadership and financial support, HAWCs were implemented at all our installations in 1994 and are now providing first-rate health and fitness programs. This is an example of a quality of life issue going from paper to reality.

The focus has changed over the past several years. Although cycle ergometry, weight and body fat management and tobacco cessation remain the “big rocks” of health promotion, integration is being emphasized as the key to the future. Integration with fitness centers, family support centers, life skills support centers,

chaplain and primary care services was needed to prevent duplication of services, consolidate information and resources, synergize existing community programs and develop new ones based on community need and population health principles.

The integrated delivery system, or IDS, provides the means to get all those people together for an awareness campaign about healthy lifestyles to a more focused integrated role. The goal is to continue with prevention, but also connect with clinical practice and community wellness, providing support to education and prevention programs offered in the hospital for people who struggle with health problems that need a fitness prescription and more personalized health education.

HAWCS have responded to the new vision in a number of ways. Wright-Patt is opening a new facility that offers “state of the art” services. Tinker AFB, Okla., set up six wellness shops and a mobile health and fitness wagon for its work force. They were selected, along with Hill AFB, Utah, to participate in a study the Defense Health Research Program has funded to design “a model Defense Department systems approach for tobacco cessation.” They have also teamed with a clinical psychologist to provide stress management seminars. Robins AFB, Ga., garnered a grant to integrate with the community and provide prevention education to school age children.

Many of the health promotion managers double as the integrated delivery system chairperson and have expanded their staff to include staff and diet technicians, health educators and fitness instructors. They are also looking for ways to expand their readiness role by enhancing force health protection and reducing health risk factors through education at home and abroad.

— Maj. Paul Mardini, AFMC/SG (Photo of Mr. Reggie O’Hara, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, by Capt. Jeffrey Sandrock, AFMC/PA)



# TRICARE: It's getting better

— Maj. Charles Nelson  
Chief, Managed Care

During the Air Force Materiel Command Year of the Family, it's only appropriate that we focus in on a subject of crucial importance to each and every military family, and that's access to high quality health care. Our TRICARE health benefit has undoubtedly had some growing pains, but it really does continue to get better. It's grown into a world-class health plan.

Consider how far we've come:

**Referrals to civilian network care** — In the old days, under CHAMPUS, finding a "participating" provider could be quite a headache. Even then, you weren't sure you wouldn't be balance-billed for the portion CHAMPUS wouldn't pay, and you had a deductible and significant co-payments for each visit.

Now, under TRICARE Prime, beneficiaries can easily access a network provider simply by calling an 800 number...with no deductibles or copays for active duty family members.

**Claims filing** — Beneficiaries often used to have to pay out of pocket and file their own claims with CHAMPUS, and bills could take 90 days or more to be reimbursed. Sometimes the provider would file for the beneficiary, but it was often more trouble than it was worth. These days, virtually all claims are filed by the provider — and promptly paid by TRICARE within 30 days. That's progress.

**Care for Seniors** — It's no secret that

our retired service members over age 65 have been unhappy for a number of years. Many felt disenfranchised and forced out of the health care system they thought would always be there. Medical facility commanders and staff were also frustrated, in that their hands were tied by public law and the downsizing impetus of the late 1980s and 1990s.

It's also been a detriment to retention and recruitment — those of us who plan to make the military a career have been watching. However, last year's National Defense Authorization Act passed by Congress changed all that.

"TRICARE For Life" enables medicare-eligible retirees to use TRICARE as a second payer to Medicare, very much like a civilian Medicare supplemental insurance policy. For many of our seniors, this will mean no out of pocket expenses other than their monthly Medicare Part B premium which is about \$50 a month.

What's more, certain pre-designated clinics and hospitals are offering "TRICARE Plus," an organized effort to allow seniors to return to the military treatment facility for their primary medical care where available and appropriate. Comprehensive retiree health care — there's a recruitment and retention tool.

**Prescription drug benefit** — When you're ill, there's nothing more important to you than getting the prescriptions you need right away, with a minimum of hassle. Last spring, TRICARE abandoned its old, complicated system for determining copayments in favor of a less expensive and vastly simplified option. TRICARE

eligibles, both enrolled and non-enrolled, can now use a network pharmacy and pay \$3 for a generic drug, \$9 for a brand-name prescription, with up to a 30-day supply.

There are no worries about enrollment status, age, or beneficiary category. That's all there is to it. What's more, for longer-term maintenance medications, you can use the national mail order pharmacy. Medications right to your door, with the same \$3 and \$9 co-pay for a 90-day supply. Simple, easy and cheaper than virtually all comparable civilian Health Maintenance Organizations.

Of course, active duty members never pay for prescriptions, and prescriptions are still delivered at the military treatment facility at no cost.

It's important to consider that regardless of duty status, rank or age, we are all members of one military family; many of us are simply at different points along the way.

We all need the assurance of timely, high quality health care for our families and ourselves. The TRICARE health plan, in partnership with our direct care system, is there for us.

But each of us has a responsibility, and that's to know how to use our health care benefit. Ask questions; read the TRICARE information that's sent to you in the mail, attend a briefing or visit your local TRICARE office.

With a little effort, you can take charge of your health care plan. I think you'll find it's everything you need — and a whole lot less aggravating.



# AFMC, AFGE partnership council puts people first

— By Gen. Lester Lyles  
AFMC Commander  
and  
Mr. Scott Blanch  
President, AFGE Council 214

Partnerships have been a mainstay of American society since the birth of our nation. Our founding fathers formed one of the greatest partnerships of all time when they came together to forge the Declaration of Independence and later, the Constitution.

Partnerships are also vital to our military history. The Allies of World War II and those involved in the war on terrorism pooled resources to further a common goal. And today, our national defense strategy is based on a military doctrine that calls for all the Armed Services to work together as partners for the strongest defense possible.

## Shared objectives

Air Force Materiel Command and the American Federation of Government Employees Council 214, AFL-CIO, which is the union representing the vast majority of AFMC's civilian employees, share that objective, too. We have formed a partnership that is enabling the people of our command to better carry out our mission.

The partnership is based on a simple, but important vision — labor and management working together, creating and sustaining an environment to take care of our people so they can take care of the mission.

## Building on principles

There was a time when our union and management debated how best to serve the command workforce. But today, our relationship is built on such principles as respect for all workers, common interests and shared problems, an open sharing of information, trust in each other as equals and a commitment to sustaining a partnership process. We adhere to these principles with respect and appreciation for each other's roles and responsibilities.

Our partnership efforts kicked off two years ago with the formation of a command-level Partnership Council. This Council is made up of representatives from management and AFGE. In addition, there are local partnership councils at most AFMC installations.

The AFMC/AFGE Council 214 Partnership Council is working on a number of initiatives with an ultimate goal of operationalizing the partnership concept across the command, from the headquarters to the smallest AFMC unit. The Council wants to instill management-union partnerships as part of our day-to-day routine — a routine with a people-first philosophy.

Key elements to operationalizing this partnership include establishing partnership agreements at all AFMC centers and operating locations, redefining the roles of AFMC and the union



*Gen. Lester Lyles, AFMC Commander, visits the Robins Air Force Base, Ga., depot. (Photo by Ms. Sue Sapp, WR-ALC)*

by giving the union a greater role as an advisor to commanders, requiring partnership training for all AFMC people, developing measurements to track the partnership efforts, implementing a communication plan that will help all members of the workforce to be better informed and last, but perhaps most important, undertaking meaningful initiatives.

## Partnership initiatives

Some of the initiatives already being worked by the Command Partnership Council include:

— Developing a plan to establish Alternative Dispute Resolution processes at each base. ADR allows people a way to resolve workplace disputes without filing a formal grievance or unfair labor complaint, allowing people to meet, discuss and reach agreements. It has been a success at bases where it's already in place, particularly Tinker, which recently won a prestigious Office of Personnel Management award for its ADR accomplishments.

— Working to come to an agreement on 105 Air Force Instructions previously converted from Air Force regulations. The command and AFGE have reached agreement on 80 of the AFIs and are making progress on the remaining instructions.

— Working with the AFMC Surgeon General's office to develop a command-wide policy for workers compensation and return-to-work issues.

As the Air Force command with the largest number of civilian employees, we are committed to maintaining a climate in which management and union work together. We must work together as partners, whether it be on a shop floor at one of our depots or around the table in a conference room.

Our Partnership Councils, both at the HQ AFMC/AFGE Council 214 level and at our centers, are making great strides as we establish partnerships as the standard for how we operate. We call on everyone in AFMC, military and civilian, to work as a team and embrace these efforts.

It will make a difference in your quality of life on the job and become an important part of AFMC's own history of success in meeting our nation's national security objectives.



# Committees focus on community issues

— Lt. Col. Bill Wall  
AFMC IDS Chairperson

In today's environment, it's not uncommon to hear "united we stand" and "helping others is what's most important."

We see daily images of people reaching out to each other, while pulling together as communities following the Sept. 11 attack on America. People of every background have been demonstrating personal values of "service before self" while working together to make a difference.

## A sense of community

The Air Force Materiel Command has been developing this sense of community for years. As a part of this effort, two important committees have been formed: the integrated delivery system, or IDS, and community action information board, or CAIB, were created to focus on community issues and advocate for improvements in quality of life.

The integrated delivery system is a working group or the "action arm" of the community action information board, comprised of representatives from the base helping agencies including: family support, the chaplain, life skills support center, family advocacy, child and youth services and health and wellness center.

Some installations include representatives from the drug demand reduction program, public affairs, First Sergeants and local schools representatives.

## What's in a name?

At some installations, the IDS is known by a different name. For example, at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., their IDS is known as services, outreach and resources, and at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, it's the helping agencies team.

Whatever name the IDS uses, it is a dedicated group of committed, creative and enthusiastic community builders pressing forward to make a positive impact. As the working arm of the CAIB, they investigate and research local community and quality of life issues before presenting them to the board.

The board is comprised of senior leaders at each base. This is one of the ways that base leadership becomes aware of and involved in the quality of life for installation members. During meetings,

decisions are made regarding ideas for improvements or local policy affecting community members.

## What they do

But what if the issues go beyond just the local base? The answer lies in both the major command and Air Force CAIB.

At Command level, problems and issues affecting communities within AFMC are discussed. AFMC forwards concerns to the Air Force if it involves issues beyond their scope. In essence, the system can take a suggestion from one individual and elevate it to Air Force level.

So what does the IDS and CAIB really do? They resolve problems and issues the members of their communities experience. For example, people at several AFMC installations began to complain about the negative impact "check cashing" vendors were having on the financial wellness of our families. These complaints were heard by family advocacy, family support, life skills support and the childcare center staff.

In turn, those organizations brought these issues to the table at their IDS meeting and started working to fix the problem through the CAIB. Too large for local resolution, it was forwarded to the AFMC CAIB. The AFMC team worked the problem and recognized it as just the tip of the iceberg. Based on the complexity of the problem, they recommended it be forwarded to the Air Force CAIB.

The Air Force CAIB has done extensive work in the area of financial hardship. The concerns that started with "pay-day loan" and "advance check cashing" have resulted in quality of life improvements by recognizing the root cause of the problem stems from Air Force personnel having inadequate financial resources.

Solutions to the problems included Air Force recommendations for increases in basic allowance for housing, pay raises above the economic cost index, increased reimbursements for moving costs, expanded financial wellness programs and other policy changes.

The IDS and CAIB are there to help, but they need your help. They need to hear from you, so continue to voice your community improvement ideas to representatives at your base.

The big picture for the CAIB and IDS are addressing those community improvement and quality of life issues that impact the readiness of the force, community capacity, and sense of community for Air Force members and their families.

## How to find your sense of community

Members of our Air Force Materiel Command family know when quality of life is good and community capacity is high because we feel it as a "sense of community." This sense of community can be found when we reflect on a couple of questions. I invite you to get a pencil out and have a little fun.

First, ask yourself "where is the best place you have ever lived?" Now ask yourself "What are three of the characteristics that made it the "best." Everyone starts smiling when we do this exercise in small groups as they are flooded with positive feelings that come from reflecting on a positive past experience. Now narrow the focus to answer the question, "which of these characteristics is most important?"

If you took a minute to ask yourself these questions you now have an understanding of what a sense of community is all about. The most important characteristics often listed for their best place include: church, schools, recreational facilities, friends, people with similar values, feeling connected, sense of belonging, low cost of living, great neighbors and a safe place where you can leave doors open and kids play outside.

Do any of these characteristics sound like your answers, or your experience of your best place? Our civilian family members who may be life-long residents in the community, likely made their decision based on these or other important characteristics of "sense of community." Building a strong sense of community and developing high community capacity are the fundamental goals and primary responsibilities of the IDS and the CAIB.

— Lt. Col. Bill Wall, AFMC/SG



*Tech. Sgt. Jay Huey, an activated reservist with the 95th Security Forces Squadron Bravo Flight, stands ready at a M-160 machine gun at Edwards AFB, Calif. (Photo by Master Sgt. Stephanie Doner)*

## Reserve call-up brings new faces to Edwards

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — There are a number of new faces showing up here — individual mobilization augmentees brought back to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the president approved a partial mobilization of reservists.

At Edwards, more than 50 activated reservists have arrived to augment organizations affected by the current operations, some from as far away as Rhode Island and New Jersey.

All the IMAs at Edwards who have been activated expect to remain on active duty for at least a year.

— Information provided by AFFTC Public Affairs

## Hill achieves record ALC competition rate in 2001

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah — For the first time ever an air logistics center has exceeded a 70 percent competition rate.

“Ogden Air Logistics Center achieved a 74 percent competition rate by awarding more than \$1.48 billion in competitive contracts in fiscal year 2001,” said Mr. Roger Porter, competition advocate and

chief of the contract policy and pricing division.

Another first for OO-ALC was topping the \$2 billion mark in total contract dollars awarded. Workloads and personnel transferred from the former Sacramento and San Antonio Air Logistics Centers, as well as ongoing Ogden workloads and personnel, all contributed to reaching the milestone.

Competition goals for each logistics center and buying activities are assigned yearly by the Air Force to encourage the use of competition and commercial practices.

— Information provided by OC-ALC Public Affairs

## USAF Museum receives AF award for excellence

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The U.S. Air Force Museum recently received the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award for its work in documenting, preserving, exhibiting Air Force history and educating people.

The museum recently broke ground on a 200,000 plus square foot building to showcase the Cold War era. The building is scheduled to open in 2003.

— Information provided by USAF Museum Public Affairs

## AFRL brings new chief technologist on board

WRIGHT PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio — The Air Force Research Laboratory headquartered here recently announced Dr. Barbara Wilson’s appointment to chief technologist.

Dr. Wilson will be the primary advisor on science and technology and primary authority for the technical content and quality of the science and technology portfolio to the AFRL commander.

She came here from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act.

— Information provided by AFRL Public Affairs

## AFRL awards \$2.6 million contract to BBNT Solutions

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate has awarded a contract to

BBNT Solutions of Cambridge, Mass., to research information extraction technology. The 30-month agreement is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency of Arlington, Va.

“The focus will be on computer software that takes raw text as input, and automatically extracts entities and relations that are of interest,” said Mr. Walter Gadz Jr., information and intelligence exploitation division program manager. “The developed software will be designed to assist analysts trying to glean nuggets of information from vast sources of text.”

— Information provided by AFRL Public Affairs

## Test team wins award for successful scramjet flight

ARNOLD AIR FORCE BASE, TENN. — The Range G Scramjet test team received the 2001 third quarter technical achievement award here.

The Range G team overcame several major technical challenges to accomplish the first-ever successful free flight of a hydrocarbon-fueled scramjet engine using G-Range. A supersonic combustion ramjet engine, known as a scramjet, was a part of the test program which demonstrated the viability of using a two-stage gas gun as a low-cost alternative to extremely expensive, full-scale scramjet flight tests.

The team initiated an analysis of methods to increase performance of the two-stage light gas gun resulting in a custom-designed launch tube capable of launching the fragile scramjet engine projectile.

They developed and demonstrated a three-dimensional finite element projectile capability that was instrumental in the first successful integration of an experimental hydrocarbon-fueled scramjet engine into a carrier body for a two-stage, light-gas launcher. In addition, the team designed, installed and calibrated a 10-station, orthogonal X-ray shadowgraph system that was instrumental in the analysis of the scramjet flight trajectory.

The test team incorporated projectile design changes that met the strict scramjet engine requirements and was successful in launching the test. The team successfully launched the scramjet and its engine ignited producing a Mach 8 thrust speed, setting a precedent in scramjet flight.

— Information provided by AEDC Public Affairs



# Brooks tenant prepares for possible bioterrorism threats

**T**hey have been at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, for more than a year preparing for the kinds of bioterrorism threats that American citizens are today most concerned with. Now they have joined forces with another agency creating a joint military-civilian organization which is fast becoming a center for the advancement of global health.

When the Development Center for Operational Medicine was established at Brooks last August, few federal planners realized then that this first-of-its-kind organization would so quickly become an integral part of what has evolved as homeland security.

The center, a hybrid unit primarily involved with medical contingency planning, is a central component of the Air Force Surgeon General's initiative to enhance coordination and cooperation between military and civilian agencies tasked with emergency disaster response.

"We're a 'think tank' for the Air Force Surgeon General in all aspects of medical operations," said Dr. (Col.) Rasa Silenas, Development Center director of medical homeland security. Dr. Silenas said her organization is involved in many activities ranging from medical technology development to planning homeland defense medical services.

## Coming together

In March 2001, the center merged with the Office for Applied Solutions in Operational Medicine, headed by physician Dr. Michael Freckleton. The office is part of the Texas Center for Applied Technology, chartered through the Texas Engineering Experiment Station under the Texas A&M University system.

Their merger brings together a diverse, specialized group of professionals that include physicians, nurses, special forces medics, educators, resource managers and medical contingency planners.

The developmental center component of this hybrid organization tested its skills a month before the merger to support

"Alamo Alert," a first-time disaster response exercise jointly conducted at Lackland AFB, Texas, by Region 8 of the Texas Department of Health and the Texas Air National Guard.

Among the many participants that the center worked with were the city of San Antonio police and fire departments,



American Red Cross, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control.

## Showcasing response

"It was a table-top exercise involving the full response spectrum of federal, state and local agencies," said Dr. Silenas. She explained the exercise was designed to showcase Defense Department, interagency and intergovernmental efforts in the San Antonio area to develop effective preparedness and response to the challenges of a terrorist-initiated biological incident.

Now known as Applied Solutions in Operational Medicine, its participation in this and other initiatives has expanded its reputation as an organization that can be relied upon to foster joint civilian-military coordination that promotes health care and disaster response strategies.

Specifically, their charter includes developing effective strategies to counter unconventional nuclear, biological and chemical threats through local, state, national and international partnerships. Their far-ranging activities are coordinated through the 311th Human Systems Wing at Brooks.

This office also leverages the use of cutting-edge technologies. "We look for

evolving technologies that can be equally applied to military and civilian requirements," said Dr. Silenas. She explained her team identifies emerging technologies that can support health care and disaster response strategies, then encourages the private sector to develop basic research prototypes.

## A new prototype

"We're currently developing a prototype, what we call an 'intensive care unit in a briefcase,' that can be valuable to military operations, the aeromedical evacuation community and civilian sector," said Dr. Freckleton, who besides serving as director, is an Air Force Reserve medical officer.

He explained that one of these integrated medical tools, a hand-held device designed to help medical personnel manage diabetes outcomes, was originally developed for use in Las Colonias along the Texas-Mexico border. Such a device, he noted, can be adapted for use in supporting America's fighting forces.

Adaptation of such devices through advanced research and development is one of the office's on-going goals to assist civilian and military planners field new and more effective disease surveillance tools.

With growing global concerns over bio-terrorism and infectious diseases, such devices could prove to be 'life-savers' for millions of people worldwide.

Additionally, the office provides education and training for not only civilian and military health care and disaster response professionals, but to the general public.

"We need to develop a whole new culture of civilian-military integration and export it to other military installations and civilian communities," said Dr. Silenas, explaining that health care and disaster response contingency planning is critically important to help ensure our citizens' safety and survival.

— Mr. Rudy Purificato, 311th HSW



# Test Pilot School training sends Air Force toward "Space Force"

After attending a space-based training course, six Air Force engineers are moving the Air Force toward a true air and space force. The four-week Air and Space Vehicle Test Course, or AVTC, wrapped up in November at U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

Now in its second year, the course is designed to prepare space testers for an increasing number of programs using trans-atmospheric vehicles, space-based assets and sensor-to-shooter systems, said Maj. Kelly Greene, AVTC course director.

## Shortfalls

"The Air Force has a stake in a number of space projects such as the X-38 Crew Return Vehicle and the X-40 Space Maneuver Vehicle," she said.

"Unfortunately, we only have a small number of trained space testers. This course was designed to meet this shortfall and provide the proper training."

This year's students included Maj.

Bob Jones, a developmental engineer with the 412th Test Wing at Edwards, and Capt. Bob Bodwell and 1st Lt. Ted Earp, both aerospace engineers with Edwards' Access to Space Office.

In addition, Capt. Tom Lenz, 2nd Lt. Mike Walter and 2nd Lt. Dave Drummond, all of Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles Air Force Base, Calif., also graduated in November.

According to Lt. Earp, his new knowl-

edge will benefit his office, Access to Space, because the office works closely with the aerospace vehicle programs at NASA. "It has also allowed me to see a side that we don't get to do, which is the actual space operation," he said.

## A learning experience

Emphasizing aerospace plane and X-vehicle testing, the course curriculum includes approximately 80 hours of aca-

Station, and a landing in a space shuttle simulator at Johnson. The visit to Dryden included experience in an X-33 simulator and a look at the X-38 demonstrator used at Edwards.

"Going to Johnson Space Center and seeing what the astronauts go through, the shuttle simulators, and getting the opportunity to fly — it's been a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Capt. Lenz.

"I got a glimpse into aircraft tests and space tests and the bridge between them, between NASA and the Air Force."

## Highlights

One of the highlights of the course was a two-hour presentation on the X-15 given by California State Senator Pete Knight, retired Maj. Gen. Joe Engle and Mr. Bill Dana, all X-15 pilots, and Mr. Johnny Armstrong, an X-15 flight test engineer. They were joined for a third hour by retired Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager and Mr. Fitz Fulton, who piloted the B-52 that released the X-



*The mission control center at Johnson Space Center, Houston, was just one of many visits the Aerospace Vehicle Test Course students experienced over the four-week course (Courtesy Photo)*

demics, space test projects, field trips and flights in several different aircraft — including a glider, a T-38 and an F-16.

The students visited several sites during their field trips, including Johnson Space Center in Houston, the Vandenberg Air Force Base Spaceport, and Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards.

The visits included briefings on the X-38 Crew Return Vehicle, being developed for use with the International Space

15 and X-1.

"It seems all the focus is on the current launch vehicles and satellites," Capt. Lenz said. "But the aircraft side, the X-15 and all the past projects, aren't talked about much. Having the opportunity to listen to Chuck Yeager and the X-15 pilots like Joe Engle speak, it's just been great."

— Tech. Sgt. Christopher Ball, AFFTC Public Affairs



# NASCAR makes "pit stop" at U.S. Air Force Museum

**N**ASCAR racing team #21 made a pit stop at the U. S. Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, recently to donate a special edition car hood depicting the Air Force logo and the F-22 Raptor.

The car's driver, Mr. Elliott Sadler, was on hand with owners Mr. Eddie Wood and Mr. Len Wood at a ceremony to present the "raptor" hood, which had been specifically designed to honor members of the Air Force.

The impact of such a good partnership with NASCAR and the Wood brothers racing team is that it reaps great rewards in recruiting and public awareness, said Gen. Lester Lyles, commander of Air Force Materiel Command and the evening's host. Gen. Lyles explained that the Air Force is extremely proud of its association with NASCAR and the Wood brothers' crew.

## Classy display

"This whole team exudes class. You couldn't ask for a better group of people," said Gen. Lyles. The Air Force has advertised on Wood brothers NASCAR Motorcraft #21 Ford Taurus since the start of the 2001 racing season, proudly displaying the Air Force symbol in white on a red body of the car's hood.

The blue "raptor" paint scheme was created as a special one-time tribute to the members of the Air Force, and raced in the Coca-Cola 600, held in Charlotte, N.C. on Memorial Day. Raptor, which means bird of prey, was applied to the F-22 fighter to capture the essence of its speed and lethality. The raptor paint scheme on car #21 made a direct connection between the mind-boggling speed of the F-22 in flight and the blur that is Mr. Sadler's car as it whips around racetracks across America.

## Common bond between professionals

"There's a common bond between racing and the Air Force," said retired Maj. Gen. Charles Metcalf, U.S. Air Force Museum director, who accepted the car hood on behalf of the museum. "The folks who follow aviation and the folks who follow racing have a lot in common — they both love speed."

Gen. Lyles described the NASCAR experience as exhilarating, saying, "you haven't lived until you hear that 700-horsepower engine running and watch these professionals out on the track."

These same professionals, the Wood brothers and Mr. Sadler, penned their autographs on the donated hood for final display in the museum's main atrium.

"We will place it with great honor," said Gen. Metcalf, describing the permanent mount on the wall next to the museum's Air Force Recruiting Service kiosk.

## Recruiting potential

Gen. Metcalf added that the potential for recruiting is enormous, explaining that everybody who enters and exits the museum would see it.

Team members were invited to tour the museum earlier in the

day, after which Mr. Sadler said with a smile, "everything we have been exposed to with the Air Force has been first class."

Mr. Sadler recalled during the ceremony that just before the Food City 500 race March 25, Gen. Lyles presented him with the AFMC commander's coin, and that it had been his good luck charm in bringing his first NASCAR win out of 75 starts.

The ceremony was held in conjunction with the AFMC Commanders' Conference, which served as a team-building event for commanders within AFMC.

During the evening's events, the Air Force Band of Flight treated guests to a special musical celebration of America with a tribute to those heroes devoted to protecting the well being of Americans everywhere.

— Capt. Jeffrey Sandrock, AFMC/PAI



*Above: Air Force recruiting poster on display in the Air Force Museum. Below: Car hood featuring the F-22 Raptor, which was donated by NASCAR racing team # 21, also on display at the museum. (Photos by Capt. Jeffrey Sandrock, AFMC/PAI)*

# Foot and Mouth epidemic provides Brooks vet with "golden" opportunity

The recent European foot-and-mouth disease epidemic provided a retired colonel at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, with a "Golden" opportunity to help contribute to veterinary medicine while ensuring human health.

## Helping the Brits

Dr. John Golden, a Brooks based veterinary technology adjunct professor for Palo Alto College, spent two 30-day tours in England earlier this year helping combat a virulent disease that has led to the destruction of millions of domestic livestock in the United Kingdom.

"I had never seen an actual case of foot-and-mouth disease before going to the UK. I had studied it as a veterinarian," admits the 56-year-old Bonham, Texas native.

Dr. Golden spent 28 years as an Air Force veterinarian before retiring in 1999 as the Air Force Research Laboratory's veterinary sciences chief. His vast veterinary experience, however, did not fully prepare him for the unique challenges he encountered in a foreign land that, prior to this most recent epidemic, had been scourged earlier by "mad cow" disease.

## A new experience

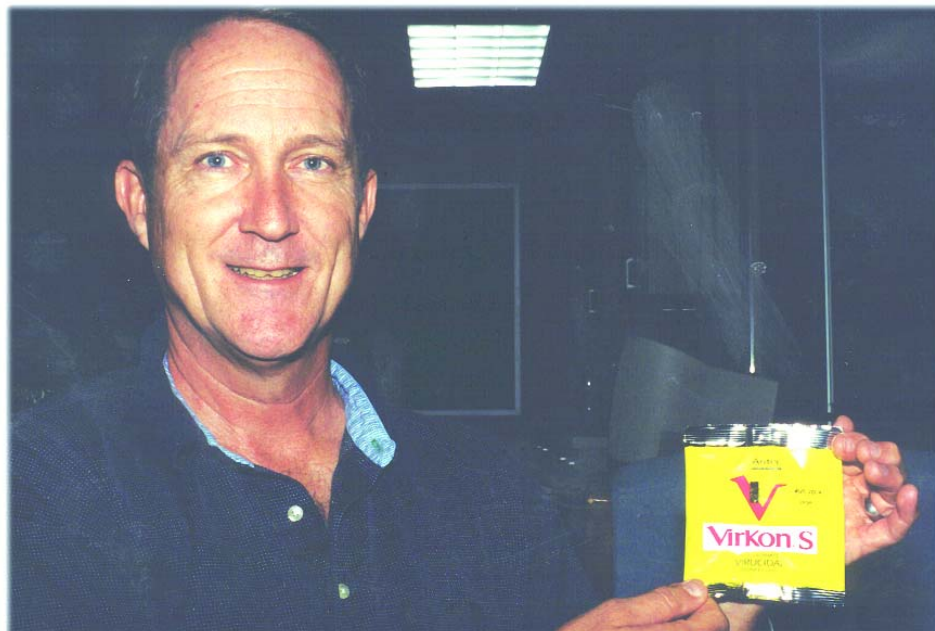
"When I came back to the states I was quarantined for seven days. I could have no contact with animals. On the last day before I returned home, I had to burn my clothes," he said.

Unlike "mad cow" disease, which is contagious to both humans and animals, foot-and-mouth disease only infects animals with cloven hooves such as pigs, cattle, sheep, goats and deer.

Nevertheless, Dr. Golden had to take many precautions in support of the international effort to contain the disease.

"It was a tremendous experience for me being part of a team that was composed of veterinarians from throughout the world," he said.

Dr. Golden was hired by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a temporary veterinary inspector after he saw an e-



*Dr. John Golden, a Brooks AFB, Texas, veterinary technology adjunct professor for Palo Alto College, displays disinfectant used in the United Kingdom during the foot-and-mouth disease epidemic. Dr. Golden recently spent two 30-day tours in England helping to contain the disease that led to the destruction of millions of animals in the UK. (Photo by Mr. Rudy Purificato, 311th HSW)*

mail advertisement for volunteers.

He was one of about 250 USDA inspectors who deployed to the United Kingdom to assist that nation's Ministry of Agriculture. Veterinarians from South Africa, Australia, Israel and New Zealand also participated.

His initial tour there was to track dis-

ease movement in northern England. They found it (disease pathogen) in swill which they fed to pigs. They were supposed to cook it to get rid of the virus," he explained.

The investigation revealed that the Asian strain of the disease had migrated off a ship from South Africa, a country where the disease is rampant.

Dr. Golden traced disease movement from one infected area to another. The disease was partly spread by humans who carried the virus on the surface of their clothes and footwear.

Dr. Golden spent countless hours visiting affected farmers. "They (Ministry of Agriculture) have a computerized disease control system that maps the number of farms and animals affected," he said.

He spent long and tiring days there, traveling between 100-200 miles per day. They had to park their cars on the roads and walk to farm areas to inspect animals.

"The animals had to be quarantined. Every 48 hours we'd check them," Dr. Golden said.

**Unlike "mad cow" disease, which is contagious to both humans and animals, foot-and-mouth disease only infects animals with cloven hooves such as pigs, cattle, sheep, goats and deer.**

ease movement in northern England.

"Prime Minister Tony Blair visited us on our first trip," Dr. Golden recalls, noting that the epidemic had devastated the UK's economy involving its agricultural industry and tourism.

## Learning fast

Before Dr. Golden was allowed into the affected areas, he was given a crash course on the disease.

"They (investigators) had traced the epidemic (outbreak) to Feb. 20, 2001.



Before they left a farm, they had to wash themselves and disinfect their clothes.

The Brooks veterinarian discovered that cattle were particularly sensitive to certain colors. "We'd wear green protective suits instead of white ones so as not to spook cows," admits Dr. Golden.

Cattle were the easiest to diagnose because disease symptoms were clearly visible. "They suffered from excessive salivation and smacking of lips, tender and sore feet caused by sores and blisters, shivering, raised temperatures and reduced milk production," Dr. Golden explained.

The disease was also easy to spot in pigs, which suffered sudden lameness and lethargy.

### **Disease spread quickly**

The disease had spread quickly from pigs to sheep. Sheep were the most difficult to diagnose.

What inspectors also had to worry about was orf, the viral disease sheep carry, which is contagious to people.

"I had to wash my hands a lot," confessed Dr. Golden. Also prevalent in the areas they visited were hog cholera and mad cow disease.

"We had some vets who didn't eat beef over there. I wasn't too concerned," Dr. Golden said.

### **Epidemic highlights**

The epidemic also was not without irony. In one affected area was the home of Mr. James Herriot, the legendary veterinary surgeon, scientist and author of the best selling book *All Creatures Great and Small*.

Within 24 hours of finding the disease among animals they inspected, every creature had to be killed within a three-kilometer radius.

"It's quite an operation to kill 1,000 sheep," said Dr. Golden. "The cull (kill) is very demanding and stressful for everybody involved. I was there to ensure the killing was humane."

So far, the epidemic has resulted in over four million animals killed. "I don't think British small farming will ever recover," admits Dr. Golden.

For now, British authorities believe they have contained the disease. Winter quartering of animals may result in an outbreak next spring. Should that occur, the Texas vet knows another "Golden" opportunity awaits him.

— Mr. Rudy Purificato, 311th HSW



## **Foot-and-mouth disease no longer exists in U.S.**

Thanks to an aggressive disease eradication and surveillance program, foot-and-mouth disease that has plagued the United Kingdom and Ireland this year no longer exists in the United States.

"We haven't had an outbreak since 1929," said Dr. John Golden, Palo Alto College adjunct professor who teaches veterinary technology at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

### **Disease devastation**

Dr. Golden now fully appreciates the significance of America's prevention program that has thwarted foot-and-mouth outbreaks here. He spent two months in England earlier this year helping contain the disease.

While it's only contagious to cloven-hoofed animals, Dr. Golden said, such a disease could potentially be devastating to America's domestic livestock and to the country's migratory deer population.

Foot-and-mouth disease, previously known as hoof-and-mouth, once wreaked havoc in America. "Nine outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease occurred from 1870 to 1929. The outbreaks which began in 1914 and 1924 were very extensive," said Dr. Bruce Lawhorn, a veterinarian with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Lawhorn said the 1914 outbreak severely affected Texas and 21 other states. Over 200,000 cattle, swine, sheep and goats had to be killed, Dr. Lawhorn said. In the 1924-25 outbreak in California, the prime culprit for spreading the disease were deer, he noted. More than 22,000 animals had to be slaughtered there, including more than 2,000 deer.

The last U.S. outbreak also occurred in California. "A minor outbreak in 1929 from waste food off-loaded from a cruise ship and fed to livestock was quickly controlled and eradicated. Foot-and-mouth disease virus-contaminated meat scraps from a South American country were the cause," Dr. Lawhorn explained.

Since then, U.S. vigilance has stopped the disease from spreading from neighboring countries. In 1946, Mexico experienced a severe outbreak of aftosa, the Latin American name for foot-and-mouth disease. This outbreak resulted in the slaughter of nearly one million animals. The epidemic, which had threatened America's southern border, prompted the U.S. government in 1947 to form the American and Mexican Commission for the Eradication of Aftosa. This partnership marked the first time the U.S. had undertaken an animal disease eradication effort with another country, Lawhorn explained.

Nonetheless, Mexico experienced another outbreak in 1953. A year earlier, Canada experienced its first outbreak of the disease.

### **A proactive approach**

To thwart further outbreaks, the U.S. Department of Agriculture established in 1956 the Plum Island Laboratory on Long Island, N.Y. "The Plum Island Laboratory has given the U.S. the ability to rapidly diagnose potential foreign animal disease cases that might threaten our nation or other free areas in North America," said Dr. Lawhorn. Rapid diagnosis and containment efforts are the lifeblood for elimination of these threats, if such diseases are introduced."

The Texas A&M veterinarian considers this laboratory part of America's frontline defense against foreign animal diseases. "Considering that foot-and-mouth disease may have been present in the United Kingdom for up to three weeks prior to being diagnosed, and knowing how that lag time may have contributed to extensive spread of the disease, the ability of our nation to rapidly recognize and eliminate such threats cannot be overemphasized," he said.

— Mr. Rudy Purificato, 311th HSW



## Museum displays modern aircraft

**Each year more than 1.2 million visitors pour through the doors of the United States Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to interface with Air Force history.**

What they soon discover is a place which projects a striking image of military service's present and future as much as it preserves and portrays the Air Force's storied past.

### **Educational role**

The museum's collection of modern and futuristic aircraft has come into sharper focus in the recent weeks following the kickoff of the Operation Enduring Freedom air campaign over Afghanistan.

The 24-hour news blitzkrieg featuring around-the-clock footage of U.S. airpower pummeling Taliban targets has crystallized the museum's role in informing the public about the Air Force's evolving mission and the weapon systems

and platforms it uses to perform that mission.

### **Past and present**

"As proud as we are to educate the public about people, aircraft and campaigns from previous eras, we're just as proud of our efforts to show them what our nation's Air Force brings to the fight today," said museum director Maj. Gen. (Ret) Charles Metcalf.

"We provide our visitors an opportunity they can find few other places, which is the ability to see up close a number of aircraft that the Air Force is operating today as well as those that will help the Air Force continue its transition to a true aerospace force with global reach and global strike capability," he said.

### **Reference points**

The museum's modern flight hangar boasts more than 70 of the museum's 300-plus aircraft and missiles, including airframes representative of those participating in Afghanistan operations or homeland defense. These include the B-52, F-15, F-16 and RQ-1 Predator Unmanned

Aerial Vehicle. Although many of these museum aircraft may be different models from those currently active, they still offer visitors a more tangible point of reference to what they hear and see on the news.

Other related aircraft on exhibit at the museum include the B-1 bomber and two AC-130 Spectre gunships.

One of the gunships saw combat action in Desert Storm, its crew intercepting and attacking a convoy of retreating Iraqi troops on the Al Jahra highway, inflicting significant damage on Iraqi equipment.

### **Public support**

"Displaying these aircraft not only informs the public about Air Force capabilities, but it helps keep the service close to the citizens who support it with their tax dollars," said Gen. Metcalf.

"This is one way the Air Force maintains accountability to the American taxpayers, by showing them the incredible capabilities they purchase and sustain," he said.

Thanks to a constantly growing aircraft collection, the

museum is fast becoming a place where the emerging dimensions of the future aerospace force — characterized by stealth, precision, global reach and even unmanned systems — are etching themselves on the tableau of public awareness.

Besides the Predator, visitors to the modern flight hangar can view the F-117 stealth fighter and the YF-22, the prototype of the Air Force's next-generation air dominance fighter.

### **Coming soon**

For good measure, the museum plans to roll out a B-2 Spirit stealth bomber in 2003, which will mark the first permanent public exhibit of the aircraft that has come to symbolize for many the essence of the potency and potential of aerospace power.

According to Museum Historian Dr. Jeff Underwood, museum visitors can gain a greater appreciation for technological advances and how they have transformed the nature and lethality of air power over the years.

### **Follow the progress**

"The U.S. Air Force Museum has a long tradition of displaying aeronautical technology in a manner that illustrates the past, present and future directions of air power," said Dr. Underwood.

"For example, one can follow the progression of stealth technology from the earliest Tacit Blue aircraft to the current and future capabilities as demonstrated in the F-117A Nighthawk stealth fighter and the F-22 Raptor, respectively," he said.

"This technology will be incorporated into the new joint strike fighter, which will be flown by all the services," Dr. Underwood said.

— Mr. Chris McGee, Air Force Museum, Public Affairs



# Director survives terrorist attacks twice in a lifetime

Surviving a terrorist attack and moving on with life as usual is often a very hard thing to do. But, Mr. George Falldine, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., plans and programs director, has done it twice, and still has faith in God and country.

Mr. Falldine was at the Pentagon Sept. 11 when a hijacked commercial airliner struck the building.

"I was really at the Pentagon by chance," said Mr. Falldine, "attending a last-minute meeting with Mr. Ron Orr, deputy of installations and logistics for the Air Force."

## Watching events unfold

Mr. Falldine's meeting was to take place near the building's newly renovated portion, but it had yet to begin. He said he was sitting with a group of people watching the events in New York unfold on television when, at about 9:30 a.m., the airliner hit the Pentagon.

"We felt an explosion as well as heard a rather large, muffled boom," said Mr. Falldine. "It was very much like a sonic boom going off overhead."

He said immediately the group knew something was wrong.

"Three things went through my head in very quick succession," he said. "One was that it was a truck bomb; two was the ceiling wasn't falling down on my head so sit tight and wait for instructions; and three was that my relationship with God was right so, no matter what happened, I would be OK."

Mr. Falldine said within minutes the word spread to evacuate the building.

"The evacuation was orderly and professional," he said.

"There was very little panic."

## An explosive smell

He said as he made his way outside he could smell the jet fuel and see the flames and smoke coming from the side of the building. He then checked to make sure all the members of his group had made it out safely. He said it took approximately an hour for him to contact his family to assure them he was safe.

"When I talked to my kids I told them that daddy was OK and everything would be all right," he said.

This event was all too familiar for Mr. Falldine who, on Sept. 6, 1970, was on a plane bound for New York from Frankfurt, Germany, when it was taken hostage by a group called the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. He was held hostage for three weeks.

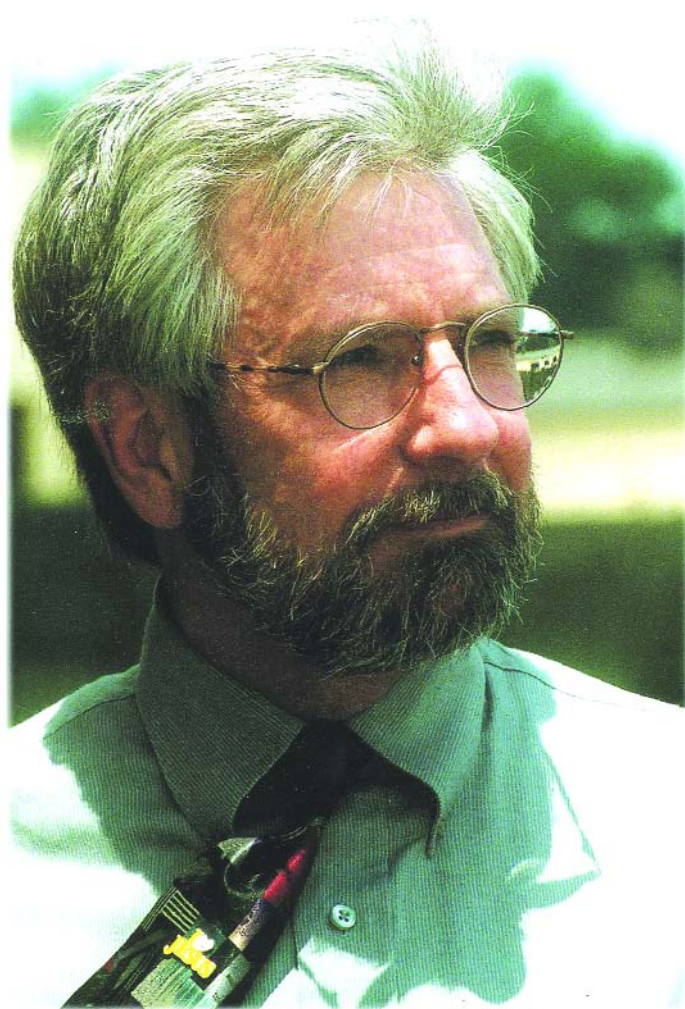
"When the explosion at the Pentagon occurred I felt no fear because I knew that my relationship with God was right and I knew what presence I would be in if something happened," he said.

Mr. Falldine said he did not have that same feeling in 1970.

## Looking back and looking forward

"As I look back on that event I felt real fear," he said.

Now, he says, he continually reassures his children that things are OK and tells them not to dwell on these events. He said he



*Mr. George Falldine had the rare experience of confronting terrorism on two different occasions. Being at the Pentagon on Sept. 11 has most recently tested his faith, finding it stronger.*

would give travelers the same advice. "The government has stepped up security measures, and I wouldn't be apprehensive about getting on an airplane today," he said. "The main advice I would give is to be prepared for the wait."

## Representing DOD

With security measures increased across the country, Mr. Falldine reminds his staff that they all are a part of the Defense Department and must continue to have a good attitude and the right spirit.

"I think we can all feel confident that the Department of the Air Force is doing all they can to ensure our physical security," he said.

"If you get frustrated while waiting in line, prayer does a wonderful job of calming your nerves."

— Ms. Lanorris Askew, WR-ALC, Public Affairs



## Having a "blast" with his hobby

To the brothers Cosgrove, every day seemed like the 4th of July. They didn't need inspiration from our National Anthem's lyrics "rockets' red glare, bombs bursting in air." What they did need was \$8.95 for a do-it-yourself kit to ignite their budding interest in rocketry.

Today, Mr. Don Cosgrove still has "a blast" pursuing his hobby. The 311th Communications Squadron technical director at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, designs, builds and launches rockets. His enthusiasm for this hobby can only be fully appreciated by watching him launch rockets.

"By the time I punched the button on my first rocket I was hooked," he said when recalling his first launch at age 6.

The small rockets he and brother Jim sent skyward were powered by black powder motors. A successful launch meant the rocket soared to about 300 feet. Ground zero for their "pre-space age" launches in 1950 was an open field near their home.

As teenagers, they experimented with propulsion, using combustible chemical mixtures to make their rockets soar higher. "We were at an age of pure stupidity, but we were also curious," he said.

The Cosgrove boys began building experimental rockets. "We built larger rockets based on my designs." Having learned about safety and the need for remote control launches, they were never hurt during these experiments, but their rockets sometimes were.

"The exploding was neat," he said about their first failure. Successful launches followed, including some using multiple-stage rockets. The last experimental launch underscored how dangerous their hobby had become. "It was a fairly spectacular, exploding in mid-air that shook the neighborhood.

His interest in rockets waned until he joined a college astronomy club. However, he didn't fully resume his hobby until 1976. "What re-awoke my interest was Aerotech, a new company that produced solid rocket fuel engines for commercial use."

The rocket kit he purchased was far superior to his boyhood models. Propelled by fuel similar to that used in space shuttle rocket boosters, he exclaimed, "Boy, did that thing fly high. It was impressive enough for me to get hooked again."

Since then, he and son Michael have frequently launched rockets, some traveling more than 11,000 feet "I do low and high powered launches," he said. The difference between the two types involves engine thrust and launch control. High powered launches require a Federal Aviation Administration waiver, and a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms permit because such rockets are classified as low explosive devices.

His rockets do not have guidance systems. "That's where design becomes very important." He knows from experience becoming a "rocket scientist" helps in understanding the hobby. "Design starts on my computer," he said. Like an aeronautical engineer, he uses software to perfect his designs. "Before I make my first rocket part, I fly it a 1,000 times on my computer. He must also consider physic's law of motion: "the smaller the object, the greater the velocity." So far, he has had no design failures. What intrigues him is predicting a rocket's flight path.

These desires are part of future plans that truly are 'out of this world.' "I'd like to direct a rocket into lower earth orbit. That will be fun," said the man for whom Elton John may have been alluding to in the hit song "Rocket Man."

— Mr. Rudy Purificato, 311th Human System Wing



# Astronaut Hall of Fame inducts 3 TPS graduates

**T**hree U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School graduates recently were inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame at the Kennedy Space Center, Fla.

Retired Navy Capt. Robert Crippen, was in the then-U.S. Air Force Research Pilot School Class 65A and remained as an instructor until selected to enter the U.S. Air Force Manned Orbiting Laboratory program in October 1966.

He was the pilot on STS-1, the first orbital test of the shuttle, a flight that landed at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., as the first winged reentry vehicle to return to a conventional runway landing. He was also spacecraft commander of STS-7, STS-41C and STS-41G.

Retired Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Joe Engle graduated with class 61C of the U.S. Air Force Research Pilot School, before being selected as a project pilot for the X-15 program at Edwards.

He completed 16 flights in the aircraft and was one of eight X-15 pilots to earn astronaut wings by flying at an altitude in excess of 50 miles.

In 1977, he conducted approach and landing tests in the space shuttle program and in November 1981, commanded STS-2, a flight in which he manually flew re-entry — the only time a winged aerospace vehicle has been manually flown from orbit through landing.

Gen. Engle also commanded STS-51I, which landed at Edwards.

His Edwards ties continue today. "Maj. Gen. Joe Engle is



*Retired Maj. Gen. Joe Engle (left), with retired Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager and Maj. Gen. Doug Pearson, Air Force Flight Test Center commander, during a recent visit to Edwards AFB, Calif. (Photo by Mr. Kevin Robertson, AFFTC)*

today a valued consultant to me, and he continues to influence our test community in many powerful and positive ways," said Maj. Gen. Doug Pearson, Air Force Flight Test Center commander.

Gen. Engle was inducted into the Aerospace Walk of Honor in Lancaster, Calif. in 1992 and will be the fourth aviation legend to have his likeness painted on an outdoor mural by the Lancaster Old Town Site association.

Retired Navy Vice Adm. Richard Truly was part of the U.S. Air Force Aerospace Research Pilot School Class 64A and, following graduation, was an academic and flight test instructor at the

school until he was selected for the U.S. Air Force's Manned Orbiting Laboratory Program in 1965.

Like Gen. Engle, he flew space shuttle approach and landing tests at Edwards in 1977. He was pilot of STS-8 and commander of STS-8, the first night launch and landing in the shuttle program.

Capt. Crippen, Gen. Engle, and Adm. Truly were selected for induction by a blue ribbon committee of former NASA flight directors and officials, space journalists, a space historian and the director of the Smithsonian's National Air & Space Museum.

The committee was appointed by the Astronaut

Scholarship Foundation.

"Team Edwards congratulates the four astronauts that will be inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame this week, said Gen. Pearson.

"Each of these heroes have had connections to Edwards that supported or helped prepare them for their extraordinary accomplishments as America's astronauts," he said.

"This connection further emphasizes the important role the people and facilities at Edwards have played in our nation's successful space program."

— Ms. Leigh Anne Bierstine, AFFTC Public Affairs



